

Gray Wolf Hunter / Trapper Questionnaire 2012

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Abstract

Wisconsin held its inaugural wolf harvest season on October 15th 2012. A questionnaire was sent to wolf harvest license holders asking them questions about the season and their activities. Sixty-seven percent of license holders actively pursued wolves during the 2012 season. Active wolf harvest license holders were more likely to hunt than trap (62% vs. 14%), but trappers were much more successful with success rates of 50% for trappers and 9% of hunters; 19% success for those that did both. Most wolf pursuers hunted or trapped an area because of known wolf predation. Wolf pursuers were not interfered with by other hunters and/or trappers (76%). Of the wolves harvested, most kept and tanned the hide or made it into a taxidermy mount (92%). Those receiving a wolf license this year said they would apply for another wolf license in 2013-2014 64% said yes, 12% said no, and 24% were unsure.

Methods

The first modern day wolf harvest season opened on the 15th of October and was to continue until the harvest quota of 116 wolves was met or till midnight on the 28th of February, whichever came first. A total of 1,160 wolf harvest licenses were issued from a total of 20,271 applicants for a license. A survey (Table 1) was sent to 1,098 of the 1,160 license winners after the close of the wolf season on 23 December. Youth and those that had received a citation during the wolf season were removed from the survey pool. All those surveyed received a letter explaining the survey, the survey, and a postage paid return envelope. A reminder letter was sent about 3 weeks after the initial survey, and a second survey mailing was done 5 weeks after the initial contact. All surveys were entered into Microsoft Access and stored on the DNR production server and summarized using the Statistical Analysis System (SAS).

Results

Responses were received from 881 of the 1,098 hunters/trappers surveyed. After removing duplicates, the corrected response rate was 79.7%.

Most who had received notification that they had been selected to purchase a wolf harvest license had intended to "Hunt Only" (64.6%). This was followed by those that had intended to "Both Hunt/Trap" (28.4%), "Trap Only" (5.8%), and lastly "No Intention to Hunt or Trap" (1.2%; Table 1 Question 1). The intentions of those that actually purchased a wolf license differed ($P < .0001$) from those that were granted permission to purchase a license but did not. Those that did not purchase a license had intended to "Hunt" more than "Trap" or "Both".

"Wanting to reduce the wolf population impact on deer or other game animals" and "An opportunity for me to pursue a game animal that I have not previously hunted or trapped" were the two most important reasons for applying for a wolf license. There were many "other" reasons stated for applying for a wolf license, but wanting to pursue wolves with dogs and wanting to be in Wisconsin's first wolf hunt were often mentioned.

Overall, 67% of those that been selected to purchase a wolf license were active. Of those that did purchase a license, 82 percent actively pursued wolves (Table 1 Question 3). Among those that did not hunt or trap, "The zone I wanted to hunt/trap in closed before I could hunt/trap" was the most stated reason for not participating.

Wolf license purchasers trapped 37.4% of the time. Trappers average 18.8 days afield, most used foothold traps (96.5%) which were legal all of the season; cable restraints were legal starting on December 1 and were used 9% of the time.

Eighty-seven percent of wolf license purchasers said they hunted for wolves. Hunters averaged 10.7 days afield where wolves were their primary target, and averaged 11.2 days where wolves were their secondary target (Table 1, Sec 3 Q3). Rifles were used 82.4% of the time, followed by shotgun and bow, 7.4% and 4.7% respectively (Table 1, Sec 3 Q4). Most hunters hunted during daylight hours (98.6%) and used Calling and Incidental as the primary techniques (Table 1, Sec 3 Q5-6). Sixteen percent said they hunted wolves at night, and used calling, and calling and bait as the two most common techniques (Table 1, Sec 3 Q7-8). Sixty-seven percent of hunters that were presented an opportunity to shoot at a wolf did not, the most common reason was "Waiting for a better shot", 49%. Less than 1% of the hunters said that they hit a wolf they were unable to retrieve (Table 1, Sec 3 Q9-11).

Most hunters and trappers saw wolf sign (tracks, fur or scat, howling) while out after wolves, 92%. Hunters and trappers selected the area to pursue wolves because of known wolf predation on livestock, dogs, or game 66% of the time. Deer/Elk were the most commonly stated type of depredation, 58% (Table 1 Sec 4 Q 2-3). Known wolf depredation was the "primary (only) reason" or "very important" for 68.4% of wolf hunters and trappers. Thirty-two percent of them hunted or trapped at the request of a landowner. Finding a place to hunt or trap was "Very easy" or "Somewhat easy" for 77% of wolf license holders (Table 1 Sec 4 Q7). Days on private land by hunter and trappers outnumbered public land days 53% to 46% (Table 1 Sec 4 Q8). Hunters and Trappers moved their hunting/trapping activities due to an early wolf zone closure from their preferred wolf zone 38% of the time (Table 1 Sec 4 Q9). Of those that moved, more felt that the zone they moved to was "worse" or "much worse" than "somewhat better" or "much better". Hunter/trappers felt the Wisconsin DNR was "Very effective" or "Fairly effective" at alerting them of wolf zone closures (Table 1 Sec 4 Q10-11).

Crowding by other hunters or trappers was not an issue, as 62% of active wolf pursuers stated they were "Not at all crowded". Also they were not interfered with while pursuing, or with their chance to harvest a wolf (Table Sec 4 Q12-13). Very few hunters or trappers (1.2%) used a guide to assist them with pursuing a wolf.

Seventeen percent of the active wolf pursuers said they registered a wolf in 2012. Most wolf pursuers said they registered a male (61.7%), kept it as a taxidermy mount or tanned and kept the hide, 92.4%, and wolves were report to have had either "thick fur" or "fully furred" (Table 1 Sec 5 Q1-Q4). Of those reporting a harvest, many felt that it was either "very easy" or "fairly easy" to report their harvest with the state, 65.6% (Table 1 Sec 5 Q5). There was little difference between the hunter/trappers rating the quality of the wolf season as "very high" or "fairly high" vs. "fairly low" or "very low"; 33.5% vs. 31.5%.

Sixty-four percent of those surveyed said that they would apply for another wolf license in 2013-14 season. The most stated reason for not applying was "This year's hunt was too costly" (Table 1 Sec 6 Q1-Q2). The average wolf pursuer in Wisconsin was male, 46.6 years old and a Wisconsin resident (Table 1 Sec 6 Q3-Q5).

Table 1. *The 2012-2013 wolf hunter/trapper survey.*

Section 1: Participation in Wisconsin's Wolf Harvest

1. When you received notification that you had been selected to hunt and/or trap wolves during the 2012-13 season, what did you intend to do? **(Check one)**

License Type	Both Hunt/Trap	Trap Only	Hunt Only	I had no Intention to hunt or trap
Authorized / No License purchased	32 (17.8%)	5 (2.8%)	137 (76.1%)	6 (3.3%)
Licensed Resident	212 (31.6%)	45 (6.7%)	411 (61.2%)	4 (0.6%)
Licensed Non-resident	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	6 (100%)	0 (0%)
Total	244 (28.4%)	50 (5.8%)	554 (64.6%)	10 (1.2%)

No Answer = 17

2. What were the two most important reasons you applied for a wolf hunting/trapping license? Write a **1** next to your most important and a **2** next to your second most important reasons.

Frequency of Rankings of Reason for Applying

Reason for applying	Percent Rankings		
	Ranked #1	Ranked #2	Ranked #1 or #2
An opportunity for me to spend time outdoors by myself or with friends or family	57 (51.4%)	54 (48.7%)	111 (6.2%)
An opportunity for me to pursue a game animal that I have not previously hunted or trapped	245 (63.0%)	144 (37.0%)	389 (21.6%)
An opportunity for me to use my outdoor skills to pursue a challenging game animal	96 (47.3%)	107 (52.7%)	203 (11.3%)
I wanted to harvest a wolf in order to have a wolf taxidermy mount or tanned fur for display	83 (30.1%)	193 (69.9%)	276 (15.3%)
I wanted to reduce the wolf population impact on deer or other game animals	308 (63.0%)	181 (37.0%)	489 (27.2%)
I wanted to reduce the wolf population impact on dogs	50 (48.1%)	54 (51.9%)	104 (5.8%)
I wanted to reduce the wolf population impact on livestock	27 (37.5%)	45 (62.5%)	72 (4.0%)
I was concerned about human safety with the current wolf populations	26 (26.8%)	71 (73.2%)	97 (5.4%)
I wanted to prevent others from access to a wolf harvest permit	11 (40.7%)	16 (59.3%)	27 (1.5%)
Another reason	18 (58.1%)	13 (41.9%)	31 (1.7%)
Totals	921 (51.2%)	878 (48.8%)	1,799 (100%)

3. Did you do any wolf hunting and/or trapping during the 2012-13 wolf season?

☐ Yes → skip to Section 2, Question 1

☐ No

Frequency of Hunt/Trap by License Type Purchased

License Type	Yes	No	Total
Authorized / No License purchased	14 (7.6%)	171 (92.4%)	185 (21.1%)
Licensed Resident	565 (82.5%)	120 (17.5%)	685 (78.2%)
Licensed Non-resident	5 (83.33%)	1 (16.7%)	6 (0.7%)
Total	584 (66.7%)	292 (33.3%)	876 (100%)

No Response = 5

4. What are some of the reasons you did not hunt and/or trap for wolves?
(Check all that apply)

Reasons	Frequency	Percent
Poor weather	9	2.0
Too far to travel	15	3.3
License cost was too high	46	10.2
I wasn't confident in where to hunt/trap	42	9.3
I wanted to hunt with dogs but dogs were not allowed	77	17.0
The zone I wanted to hunt/trap in closed before I could hunt/trap	155	34.2
I wanted to prevent Others from harvesting a wolf	8	1.8
Another reason	101	22.3

Section 2: Participation in Wolf Trapping

1. Did you attempt to harvest a wolf by **TRAPPING**?

☐ Yes ☐ No → skip to Section 3, Question 1

Frequency of Trapping by License Purchased

License Type	Yes	No	Total
Authorized / No License purchased	3 (21.4%)	11 (78.6%)	14 (2.4%)
Licensed Resident	207 (37.4%)	347 (62.6%)	554 (96.7%)
Licensed Non-resident	0 (0.0%)	5 (100%)	5 (0.9%)
Total	210 (36.7%)	363 (63.4%)	573 (100%)

No Response = 302

2. How many **other** people were with you on a typical wolf trapping day? If you were alone, please enter 0.

Number of others typically with me while trapping _____

Mean Number of People assisting with trapping activities

Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std Error	Lower 95% CL for Mean	Upper 95% CL for Mean	N	N Miss
0.50	0	3.0	0.0436768	0.4138817	0.5861183	204	6

Frequency of trapping assistants

Others	Frequency	Percent
0	115	56.37
1	77	37.75
2	11	5.39
3	1	0.49

3. In the table below, first please tell us which zone(s) you attempted to trap a wolf during the 2012-13 season. Then for each zone, please complete the requested information. **(Zone map on back of letter)**

Wolf Zone you TRAPPED in:	Zone: _____	Zone: _____	Zone: _____
Number of days trapped:	_____	_____	_____
Number of foothold sets made:	_____	_____	_____
Number of cable restraint sets made:	_____	_____	_____
Number of wolves seen:	_____	_____	_____
Number of wolves restrained:	_____	_____	_____
Number of wolves released:	_____	_____	_____
Number of radio-collared wolves restrained:	_____	_____	_____
Number of radio-collared wolves released:	_____	_____	_____
Other species captured & released:	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

Mean Trapping Effort -- Statewide

Variable	N	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std Error	Lower 95% CL for Mean	Upper 95% CL for Mean
# of days	200	18.88	1.00	102.00	1.19	16.54	21.21
# of foothold sets made	193	11.44	1.00	70.00	0.82	9.82	13.05
# of cable restraint sets made	18	8.11	1.00	30.00	1.57	4.80	11.42
# of wolves seen	67	2.43	1.00	15.00	0.30	1.83	3.04
# of wolves restrained	43	1.19	1.00	4.00	0.09	1.01	1.37
# of wolves released	11	1.45	1.00	3.00	0.25	0.90	2.01
# of radio-collared wolves restrained	0						
# of radio-collared wolves released	1	1.00	1.00	1.00			

Mean Trapping Effort by wolf zone

zone	N Obs	Variable	N	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std Error	Lower 95% CL for Mean	Upper 95% CL for Mean
1	77	# of days	75	15.19	1.00	45.00	1.31	12.58	17.79
		# of foothold sets made	75	11.15	1.00	50.00	1.19	8.77	13.52
		# of cable restraint sets made	4	5.75	1.00	12.00	2.43	-1.98	13.48
		# of wolves seen	33	2.18	1.00	15.00	0.46	1.24	3.12
		# of wolves restrained	18	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00		
		# of wolves released	69	0.04	0.00	1.00	0.02	-0.01	0.09
		# of radio-collared wolves restrained	0						
		# of radio-collared wolves released	0						
2	38	# of days	38	12.76	2.00	40.00	1.62	9.47	16.05
		# of foothold sets made	38	8.87	2.00	56.00	1.52	5.79	11.94
		# of cable restraint sets made	0						
		# of wolves seen	3	2.00	1.00	4.00	1.00	-2.30	6.30
		# of wolves restrained	6	1.50	1.00	4.00	0.50	0.21	2.79
		# of wolves released	35	0.11	0.00	3.00	0.09	-0.07	0.30
		# of radio-collared wolves restrained	0						
		# of radio-collared wolves released	0						
3	50	# of days	49	17.65	2.00	60.00	1.85	13.93	21.38
		# of foothold sets made	45	10.53	2.00	30.00	1.12	8.27	12.79
		# of cable restraint sets made	10	8.00	2.00	30.00	2.61	2.09	13.91
		# of wolves seen	7	2.43	1.00	6.00	0.72	0.67	4.19
		# of wolves restrained	3	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00		
		# of wolves released	45	0.09	0.00	2.00	0.05	-0.02	0.20
		# of radio-collared wolves restrained	0						
		# of radio-collared wolves released	0						
4	9	# of days	9	11.22	3.00	35.00	3.36	3.47	18.97
		# of foothold sets made	9	6.78	1.00	23.00	2.22	1.67	11.89
		# of cable restraint sets made	0						
		# of wolves seen	3	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00		
		# of wolves restrained	1	1.00	1.00	1.00			
		# of wolves released	7	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		
		# of radio-collared wolves restrained	0						
		# of radio-collared wolves released	0						
5	42	# of days	41	13.85	1.00	60.00	1.91	9.99	17.71
		# of foothold sets made	40	8.18	1.00	50.00	1.44	5.02	11.10
		# of cable restraint sets made	2	5.00	3.00	7.00	2.00	-20.41	30.41
		# of wolves seen	16	2.88	1.00	10.00	0.66	1.46	4.29
		# of wolves restrained	15	1.27	1.00	3.00	0.15	0.94	1.60
		# of wolves released	38	0.08	0.00	1.00	0.04	-0.01	0.17
		# of radio-collared wolves restrained	0						
		# of radio-collared wolves released	1	1.00	1.00	1.00			
6	34	# of days	30	20.57	1.00	66.00	3.31	13.80	27.34
		# of foothold sets made	29	5.93	2.00	12.00	0.64	4.62	7.24
		# of cable restraint sets made	4	8.25	3.00	12.00	2.25	1.09	15.41
		# of wolves seen	6	3.17	1.00	7.00	0.95	0.74	5.60
		# of wolves restrained	1	1.00	1.00	1.00			
		# of wolves released	26	0.08	0.00	2.00	0.08	-0.08	0.24
		# of radio-collared wolves restrained	0						
		# of radio-collared wolves released	0						

4. Did you trap wolves using exposed bait (setting back at least 25 feet)?

Frequency of Trappers using Bait

Bait	Frequency	Percent
Yes	16	7.8
No	189	92.2

5. On or after December 1st you could use foothold traps with a maximum spread up to 8 inches for wolves. Did you use traps larger than 7 inches on or after December 1st?

Frequency of Trappers using 8 inch footholds

8" Trap Size	Frequency	Percent
Yes	14	6.8
No	191	93.2

Section 3: Participation in Wolf Hunting

1. Did you do any wolf **HUNTING**?

☐ Yes ☐ No → skip to Section 4, Question 1

Frequency of Hunting by License Purchased

License Type	Yes	No	Total
Authorized / No License purchased	13 (92.9%)	1 (7.1%)	14 (2.4%)
Licensed Resident	485 (86.5%)	76 (13.6%)	561 (96.7%)
Licensed Non-resident	5 (100%)	0 (0.0%)	5 (0.9%)
Total	503 (86.7%)	77 (13.3%)	580 (100%)

No Response = 295

2. How many **other** people were with you on a typical wolf hunting day? If you were alone, please enter 0.

Mean Number of People assisting with hunting activities

Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std Error	Lower 95% CL for Mean	Upper 95% CL for Mean	N	N Miss
0.52	0	7.0	0.04	0.44	0.589	493	10

Frequency of hunting assistants

Others	Frequency	Percent
0	294	60.49
1	162	33.33
2	21	4.32
3	3	0.62
4	2	0.41
6	2	0.41
7	2	0.41

3. In the table below, first please tell us which zone(s) you hunted wolves during the 2012-13 season. Then for each zone, please complete the requested information. **(Zone map on back of letter)**

Wolf Zone you HUNTED in:	Zone: _____	Zone: _____	Zone: _____
Number of days where wolves were your primary hunting interest:	_____	_____	_____
Number of days where wolves were your secondary hunting interest:	_____	_____	_____
Number of wolves seen:	_____	_____	_____
Number of radio-collared wolves seen:	_____	_____	_____

Mean Hunting Effort by wolf zone

zone	N Obs	Variable	N	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std Error	Lower 95% CL for Mean	Upper 95% CL for Mean
1	192	# of days where wolves were your primary hunting interest:	174	8.67	1.00	45.00	0.60	7.48	9.85
		# of days where wolves were your secondary hunting interest:	96	11.15	1.00	60.00	0.90	7.78	11.37
		# of wolves seen	47	5.75	1.00	23.00	0.65	2.09	4.72
		# of radio-collared wolves seen	4	2.18	1.00	9.00	2.00	-3.36	9.36
2	119	# of days where wolves were your primary hunting interest:	104	6.77	1.00	30.00	0.62	5.54	8.00
		# of days where wolves were your secondary hunting interest:	52	9.60	1.00	60.00	1.37	6.85	12.35
		# of wolves seen	30	2.43	1.00	15.00	0.51	1.39	3.48
		# of radio-collared wolves seen	0						
3	147	# of days where wolves were your primary hunting interest:	142	7.95	1.00	40.00	0.64	6.68	9.22
		# of days where wolves were your secondary hunting interest:	56	8.18	1.00	25.00	0.78	6.62	9.74
		# of wolves seen	42	3.10	1.00	13.00	0.44	2.20	3.99
		# of radio-collared wolves seen	2	1.50	1.00	2.00	0.50	-4.85	7.85
4	30	# of days where wolves were your primary hunting interest:	27	7.00	1.00	30.00	1.29	4.35	9.65
		# of days where wolves were your secondary hunting interest:	15	10.60	1.00	35.00	3.00	4.16	17.04
		# of wolves seen	8	2.63	1.00	6.00	0.73	0.90	4.35
		# of radio-collared wolves seen	0						
5	78	# of days where wolves were your primary hunting interest:	70	7.07	1.00	40.00	0.95	5.18	8.96
		# of days where wolves were your secondary hunting interest:	31	11.45	1.00	50.00	1.81	7.75	15.15
		# of wolves seen	17	3.06	1.00	10.00	0.67	1.65	4.47
		# of radio-collared wolves seen	2	1.00	1.00	1.00	0.00		
6	119	# of days where wolves were your primary hunting interest:	103	8.58	1.00	50.00	0.97	6.67	10.50
		# of days where wolves were your secondary hunting interest:	67	13.04	1.00	50.00	1.44	10.17	15.92
		# of wolves seen	23	3.04	1.00	9.00	0.54	1.92	4.17
		# of radio-collared wolves seen	1	1.00	1.00	1.00			

Mean Hunting Effort - Statewide

Variable	N	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std Error	Lower 95% CL for Mean	Upper 95% CL for Mean
# of days where wolves were your primary hunting interest:	453	10.72	1.00	60.00	0.50	9.73	11.71
# of days where wolves were your secondary hunting interest:	273	11.22	1.00	70.00	0.59	10.06	12.38
# of total days	503	16.55	0.00	180.00	0.81	14.96	18.15
# of wolves seen	148	3.47	1.00	23.00	0.32	2.84	4.09
# of radio-collared wolves seen	9	2.00	1.00	9.00	0.88	-0.03	4.03

4. What type of weapon(s) did you use while hunting wolves? **(Check all that apply)**

Frequency of weapons used for hunting

Weapon	Frequency	Percent
Rifle	2,416	82.4
Shotgun	216	7.4
Handgun	93	3.2
Muzzleloader	56	1.9
Bow	137	4.7
Crossbow	14	0.5

5. Did you hunt wolves during **daylight** hours?

☐ Yes ☐ No → skip to Question 7

Frequency of Hunting during daylight hours

Response	Yes	No	Total
	489 (98.6%)	7 (1.4%)	496 (100%)

No Response = 7

6. Please tell us the number of days of **daylight** hunting using each technique?

of Days

of days of daylight hunting with BOTH Call and Bait _____

of days of daylight hunting with Bait Only _____

of days of daylight hunting with Calls Only _____

of days of daylight hunting incidental to other hunting _____

Effort by technique used for daytime hunting – Statewide

Variable	N	N Miss	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std Error	Lower 95% CL for Mean	Upper 95% CL for Mean
# of days of daylight hunting with BOTH Calls & Bait	78	411	11.05	1.00	50.00	1.17	8.72	13.38
# of days of daylight hunting with Bait Only	36	453	6.69	1.00	39.00	1.16	4.34	9.05
# of days of daylight hunting with Calls Only	343	146	9.19	1.00	50.00	0.48	8.24	10.14
# of days of daylight hunting incidental to other hunting	220	269	12.15	1.00	60.00	0.72	10.72	13.58

7. Did you hunt wolves at night? (26 Nov. – 28 Feb. night hunting period)

☐ Yes ☐ No → skip to Question 9

Frequency of Hunting during night hours

Response	Yes	No	Total
	80 (16.1%)	416 (83.9%)	496 (100%)

No Response = 7

8. Please tell us the number of nights of **nighttime** hunting using each technique?

Effort by technique used for nighttime hunting – Statewide

Variable	N	N Miss	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std Error	Lower 95% CL for Mean	Upper 95% CL for Mean
# of days of daylight hunting with BOTH Calls & Bait	16	64	6.38	2.00	14.00	0.89	4.48	8.27
# of days of daylight hunting with Bait Only	5	75	8.00	2.00	14.00	2.00	2.45	13.55
# of days of daylight hunting with Calls Only	66	14	4.44	1.00	20.00	0.44	3.56	5.32
# of days of daylight hunting incidental to other hunting	5	75	8.20	1.00	20.00	3.41	-1.27	17.67

9. Did you shoot at the first wolf which presented an opportunity?

☐ Yes → **skip to Question 11** ☐ No

Frequency of shooting at first wolf

	Yes	No
Total	76 (33.5%)	151 (66.5%)

No response = 276

10. What was your reason for passing up a wolf? **(Check all that apply)**

- ☐ Waiting for a larger wolf ☐ Waiting for wolf with a better coat / different color coat
☐ Waiting for a better shot ☐ Wanted to avoid shooting a radio-collared wolf
☐ Wanted to hunt longer ☐ Another reason? _____

Reason for passing	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative Frequency	Cumulative Percent
Waiting for a Larger Wolf	24	5.3	24	5.3
Waiting for a Better Shot	221	48.5	245	53.7
Wanted to Hunt Longer	12	2.6	257	56.4
Waiting for wolf with a better coat / different color	25	5.5	282	61.8
Wanted to avoid shooting a radio-collared Wolf	6	1.3	288	63.2
Another reason	168	36.8	456	100.0

11. Did you hit any wolves you were unable to retrieve?

- ☐ Yes → How many were you unable to retrieve? _____
☐ No

Frequency (Percent) of wolves hit and not retrieved

	Yes	No
Response	2 (0.5%)	389 (99.5%)

Frequency Missing = 112

One person said they hit 1 wolf, the other did not indicate how many wolves they hit.

Section 4: General Wolf Hunting and/or Trapping Questions

1. Did you see any wolf sign (tracks, fur or scat) or hear any howling while you were hunting and/or trapping during the 2012-13 wolf season?

Frequency (Percent) of wolf sign

	Yes	No
Total	531 (92.0%)	46 (8.0%)

No Response = 3

2. Did you select an area to hunt or trap because of known wolf predation on livestock, dogs, or game?

☐ Yes ☐ No → skip to Question 5

Frequency (Percent) of hunting/trapping because of wolf predation

	Yes	No
Total	381 (66.4%)	193 (33.6%)

No Response = 6

3. What type of depredation was it? (Check all that apply)

Frequency (Percent) of depredation type

Depredation type	Livestock	Deer/Elk	Hunting Hounds/dogs	Pets
Total	225 (18.5%)	701 (57.5%)	227 (18.6%)	66 (5.4%)

4. How important in your decision to hunt or trap an area was the known wolf depredation?

Frequency (Percent) of importance of wolf depredation to hunt/trap an area

	Important					
	Primary (only) reason	Very Important	Somewhat	Neither	Not too important	Not at all
Total	97 (25.9%)	159 (42.5%)	80 (21.4%)	25 (6.7%)	8 (2.1%)	5 (1.3%)

No Response = 7

5. Did you hunt or trap in an area at the request of a landowner?

Frequency (Percent) of hunt/trap at request of landowner

	Yes	No
Total	186 (32.4%)	387 (67.5%)

No Response = 7

6. Which, if any, of the following harvest techniques did you use? **(Check all that apply)**

Frequency (Percent) of techniques used during the wolf season

	Predator Calling/Howling	Stalking / Tracking	Trapping / Cable	Incidental	Stand Hunting	Bait/Scent	Other
Total	400 (31.9%)	152 (12.1%)	195 (15.7%)	181 (14.4%)	242 (19.3%)	77 (6.1%)	8 (0.6%)

7. In general, how easy or difficult was it for you to find a place to hunt and/or trap wolves for the 2012-13 season?

Frequency (Percent) of finding a place to hunt

	Very Easy	Somewhat Easy	Neither	Somewhat difficult	Very difficult
Total	345 (60.0%)	98 (17.0%)	71 (12.4%)	44 (7.7%)	17 (3.0%)

No Response = 5

8. How many days and on what type of land did you pursue wolves?

Mean days hunted/trapped on landtypes

Variable	N	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std Error	Lower 95% CL for Mean	Upper 95% CL for Mean
Private land I own	189	13.49	1.00	66.00	0.97	11.58	15.41
Private land I do not own	257	11.57	1.00	57.00	0.70	10.18	12.95
Industrial land	49	8.86	1.00	35.00	1.19	6.46	11.26
Public land	370	11.88	1.00	60.00	0.56	10.77	12.98

9. Did you have to move your hunting and/or trapping activities due to an early closure of your preferred wolf zone?

☐ Yes ☐ No → skip to Question 11

Frequency (Percent) of moving due to zone closures

	Yes	No
Total	217 (38.1%)	353 (61.9%)

No Response = 10

10. How would you compare the area you moved to with the area of your preferred wolf zone?

Frequency (Percent) of zone comparison when zone changed

	Much Better	Somewhat better	About the same	Somewhat worse	Much worse	Stopped pursuing
Total	4 (1.9%)	6 (2.9%)	73 (34.9%)	35 (16.8%)	32 (15.3%)	59 (28.2%)

No Response = 8

11. How would you rate the Wisconsin DNR's effectiveness of alerting you of wolf hunting/trapping zone closures (news releases, toll free number, web page, emails)?
(Circle one number)

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Never Aware of Closures	Very effective	Fairly effective			Unsure		Fairly ineffective		Very ineffective

Frequency of rating of WDNR's zone closures alerts

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Total	3 (0.5%)	226 (39.4%)	71 (12.4%)	102 (17.8%)	20 (3.5%)	25 (4.4%)	14 (2.4%)	25 (4.4%)	25 (4.4%)	62 (10.8%)

No Response = 6

Mean rating of WDNR zone closures alerts

N	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std Error	Lower 95% CL for Mean	Upper 95% CL for Mean
573	3.31	0.00	9.00	0.12	3.08	3.54

12. Thinking about the number of other hunters and/or trappers you may have seen during your hunting and/or trapping days, how crowded did you feel during your 2012-13 wolf season?
(Circle one number)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Not at all crowded		Slightly crowded		Unsure		Moderately crowded		Extremely crowded

Frequency of crowding ratings

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Total	351 (61.7%)	98 (17.2%)	43 (7.6%)	8 (1.4%)	30 (5.3%)	22 (3.9%)	7 (1.2%)	8 (1.4%)	2 (0.4%)

No Response = 4

13. Other **wolf hunters or trappers** may have affected your wolf season. For each statement below, please check the response which best reflects your 2012-13 wolf season.

Frequency (Percent) of wolf hunter interference

Response	Not at all	A little	Some	A great deal
How much, if at all, did other wolf hunters and/or trappers keep you from pursuing wolves where you wanted?	451 (78.6%)	72 (12.5%)	29 (5.1%)	22 (3.8%)
How much competition from other wolf hunters and/or trappers did you experience?	405 (70.7%)	114 (19.9%)	35 (6.1%)	19 (3.3%)
Overall, how much did other wolf hunters and/or trappers interfere with your chance to harvest a wolf?	436 (76.0%)	69 (12.0%)	35 (6.1%)	34 (5.9%)

14. Did you hire a guide to assist you with your wolf trapping or hunting?

☐ Yes

☐ No → skip to Section 5, Question 1

Frequency of hiring a Guide

	Yes	No
Total	7 (1.2%)	566 (98.8%)

No Response = 6

15. How many days did you hire a guide? _____ days

Mean number of days hunting/trapping with a guide.

N Obs	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std Error	Lower 95% CL for Mean	Upper 95% CL for Mean
7	11.29	0.00	30.00	4.13	1.17	21.40

Section 5: Wolf Harvest Registration

1. Did you register a wolf during the 2012-13 wolf season

☐ Yes

☐ No → skip to Question 6

Frequency (Percent) of Registering a wolf

	Yes	No
Total	95 (16.6%)	477 (83.4%)

No response = 7

2. Was the wolf a:

Frequency (Percent) of wolf sex registered

	Male	Female
Total	58 (61.7%)	36 (38.3%)

No response = 1

3. What did do you do with the hide? **(Check one)**

Frequency (Percent) of Hide disposition

	Sold	Taxidermy	Tanned & Kept	Tanned & Sold	Something Else
Total	1 (1.1%)	56 (59.8%)	30 (32.6%)	2 (2.2%)	4 (4.4%)

No Response = 2

4. How would you describe the fur condition of the wolf? **(Check all that apply)**

Fur condition of wolf

	Thick fur	Thin fur	Fully furred	Areas of mange	Poorly furred	Other
Total	41 (35.0%)	11 (9.4%)	39 (33.3%)	9 (7.7%)	5 (4.3%)	12 (10.3%)

Frequency Missing = 453

5. How easy or difficult was it to use the DNR's wolf harvest reporting system? **(Circle one number)**

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Very easy		Fairly easy		Neither easy nor difficult			Fairly difficult	Very difficult

Frequency (Percent) of DNR wolf harvest reporting system

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Total	45 (48.4%)	16 (17.2%)	18 (19.4%)	2 (2.2%)	6 (6.5%)	2 (2.2%)	4(4.3%)

No response = 2

6. Overall, how would you rate the quality of your 2012-13 wolf harvest season?

Frequency (Percent) of rating of Quality of wolf harvest season

	Very High	Fairly High	Neither High nor Low	Fairly Low	Very Low
Total	79 (16.9%)	78 (16.9%)	163 (34.9%)	78 (16.7%)	69 (14.8%)

No response = 112

Section 6: Background Questions

These last few questions will help us compare your answers to those of other wolf hunters and trappers.

1. Do you think you will apply for another wolf license in 2013-14?

Frequency (Percent) of applying for a wolf license in the future

	Yes	No	Unsure
Total	549 (64.1%)	101 (11.8%)	206 (24.1%)

No response = 18

2. What are some of the reasons you are unlikely to apply for another wolf license?
(Check all that apply)

Frequency (Percent) of why you are unlikely to apply for a wolf permit again

License Type	Too costly	Not enough time	Not satisfied	Not enough sign	Harvested a wolf	Not a hunter trapper	Another reason
Authorized / No License Purchased	138 (42.5%)	120 (36.9%)	20 (6.2%)	8 (2.5%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (0.6%)	37 (11.4%)
Licensed Resident	400 (33.8%)	320 (27.0%)	202 (17.1%)	128 (10.8%)	6 (0.5%)	0 (0.0%)	128 (10.8%)
Licensed Non-resident	6 (21.4%)	9 (32.1%)	8 (28.6%)	0 (0.0%)	3 (10.7%)	0 (0.0%)	2 (7.1%)
Total	544 (35.4%)	449 (29.2%)	230 (15.0%)	136 (8.9%)	9 (0.6%)	2 (0.1%)	167 (10.9%)

3. Are you: ☐ Male ☐ Female

Frequency (Percent) of wolf permit holder's gender

	Male	Female
Total	818 (94.2%)	50 (5.8%)

No response = 6

4. What is your age? I am _____ years old.

Mean age of wolf permit holder by license type purchased

License Type	N	Mean	Minimum	Maximum	Std Error	Lower 95% CL for Mean	Upper 95% CL for Mean
Authorized / No License Purchased	182	45.19	18.00	80.00	1.02	43.17	47.21
Licensed Resident	677	46.91	18.00	85.00	0.52	45.89	47.93
Licensed Non-resident	6	50.33	25.00	74.00	6.61	33.35	67.32

5. Are you a Wisconsin resident?

☐ Yes ☐ No → skip to Question 7

Frequency (Percent) of Resident

	Yes	No
Total	861 (98.9%)	10 (1.2%)

No response = 3

6. In which Wisconsin county is your primary residence? *Available upon request*

7. Please use the space below to describe how future wolf harvest seasons could be improved, or to comment on any other aspects of the wolf harvest season.

- There were 695 comments left by wolf hunter/trappers. Summary was too long for this report.